

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The California Academy of Medicine held its regular meeting on January 29, 1912, in the Library of the San Francisco County Medical Society.

Scientific program was as follows:

1—Differentiation of Influenzal and Septicaemic Meningitis. Dr. J. G. Fitzgerald. Discussed by H. C. Moffitt, G. E. Ebright and J. G. Fitzgerald.

2—Osteoplastic Carcinoma. Dr. A. L. Fisher. Discussed by Dr. Rusk, Dr. Stillman, Dr. Dickson, Dr. Eloesser, Dr. Russ, Dr. Moffitt, Dr. Ryfkogel and Dr. Fisher.

3—Demonstration of Fibromata of the Cervix. Dr. H. J. Kreutzmann.

A. W. Hewlett, Rupert Blue, G. W. McCoy, Alonzo Taylor, W. E. Garry and Geo. Blumer were unanimously elected to honorary membership. Sterling Bunnell was unanimously elected to regular membership.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

COOPER COLLEGE SCIENCE CLUB.

The Cooper College Science Club held its regular monthly meeting on February 5, 1912, at which the following scientific program was given:

1—A Case of Cancer of the Uterus. Dr. F. P. Topping. Discussed by Dr. Chester J. Teass and Dr. F. P. Topping.

2—Grafts. Dr. Dudley Tait. Discussed by Dr. Leo Eloesser, Dr. H. B. Graham, Dr. G. H. Taubles, Dr. Dudley Tait.

3—Cutaneous Reactions. Dr. Ernest D. Chipman. The name of this society has been changed to that of the Cooper Clinical Society.

Refreshments were served at the close of the program.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

Dr. T. W. Huntington, President of the State Medical Society, was the guest of the San Diego County Medical Society at a dinner given January 18th at the Palace Cafe in San Diego. About fifty members were present. Dr. Huntington talked on the need of public lectures to the laity along preventive medical lines.

B. J. O'NEILL, Secretary.

SOLANO COUNTY.

Whereas, United States Senator Works of Los Angeles, Cal., has seen fit to air his personal and family troubles in the Senate chamber of the United States, in support of a cult of drugless healing and in depreciation of the medical profession at large and certain members thereof in particular whose names he refuses to make public, and

Whereas, The medical profession stands for the highest type of citizenship and scientific attainment; be it

Resolved, That the Solano County Medical Society does hereby protest against the use and prestige of the Senate of the United States of America for the furtherance of any cult or system of healing, drugless or otherwise, and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of, this society and a copy sent to the California State Medical Journal.

A. V. DORAN, Secretary.

BOOK REVIEWS

Infections of the Hand. By Allen B. Kanavel; 8vo, linen, pp. 447 and xiii. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York, 1912; price not stated.

A good book, containing thorough anatomical studies and sound clinical views and deductions. Of much practical import is the author's work on the anatomy of the tendon-sheaths, the bursae and the fascial spaces of the hand, with original plates

based on injections and X-Rays. Valuable, as giving a clear oversight, are his diagrams of the various paths by which infections may spread over the hand.

The book is evidently intended as a work of reference; a good index aids in the finding of the anatomy, pathology and treatment of the particular lesion to which reference is desired. The subject-matter is of such importance, however, and the author's studies so thorough, that with a little rearrangement of the contents the work might be remodeled from a reference-book for the excerpting of isolated chapters to one that would be of sustained interest from cover to cover. Ready study of the valuable plates of serial cross-sections of the hand is made impossible by the use of the antiquated letter-system for designating the various structures. Instead of printing in each plate full names with lines or arrows pointing to the parts designated, a system of letters (and, worst of all, cross-references) indicates the different details. Anatomical reading is difficult enough;—to have to cross and hunt and turn back again over several pages in order to ascertain that dots labeled EPTP, ESIP, etc., have nowhere an explanation of their mystic symbols, is indeed harrowing.

I hope that these deficiencies in the technical make-up of the book may be corrected in the many subsequent editions that it deserves; they do not at all deduct from its intrinsic value. Kanavel's work is worth buying and studying by every surgeon and by every general practitioner.

L. E.

Scientific Feature of Modern Medicine. By Fred-eric S. Lee, Ph. D. Published by the Columbia University Press, New York, 1911.

This volume of 176 pages is a reproduction of eight lectures delivered by Prof. Lee in New York City. The lectures were delivered to what was at least in part, a lay audience and were illustrated by figures, charts, etc., that, the author states, have been found impracticable to reproduce. This rather detracts from the value of the book for the layman. Also the book should have a glossary.

It is unfortunate that chapters one and two should be the driest reading to the layman and the hardest for him to understand.

It is to be hoped, however, that the book will be read by those for whom it is intended for it is only by extension of knowledge of what medicine really is and what it can and cannot do, that quackery and charlatanism can be overcome, and though the author occasionally carries an idea a little far, still in the main the book is one that can be recommended by the profession to the layman who wishes to know something concerning scientific progress in medicine.

A. L. F.

An Anatomical and Surgical Study of Fractures of the Lower End of the Humerus. By Astley Paston Cooper Ashhurst, A. B., M. D. 8vo. Linen. Pages 163. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York, 1910. Price not stated.

A careful study with many interesting X-ray plates. Ashhurst treats all his patients by the hyperextension method; he has secured perfect results (i. e., no limitation of motion and normal carrying angle at the elbow) in 81% of his cases. This, when compared with the 18-25% of perfect cures attained by other surgeons, surely repays the care and detail with which he has studied these fractures. König and others have recently shown that the remote results of fractures at the elbow may not be as bad as would appear from most statistics. Reabsorption of bone and the adaption of structure to function make the remote prognosis of children's fractures more favorable than it might seem from the status immediately after discharge from treatment. However this may be, Ashhurst has succeeded in showing that the gloomy prognosis generally accorded fractures at the elbow,

may under proper treatment be changed to a favorable one,—even as to immediate results. Of especial interest are the plates from anatomical dissections showing the replacement and retention of supracondylar fractures by the hyperextension position, and the plates of the fractures of the type "Posadas," before and after treatment. L. E.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

A board of commissioned medical officers will be convened to meet at the Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, 3 B street, SE., Washington, D. C., Monday, April 8, 1912, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of examining candidates for admission to the grade of assistant surgeon in the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

Candidates must be between 22 and 30 years of age, graduates of a reputable medical college, and must furnish testimonials from responsible persons as to their professional and moral character.

The following is the usual order of the examinations: 1, Physical; 2, oral; 3, written; 4, clinical.

In addition to the physical examination, candidates are required to certify that they believe themselves free from any ailment which would disqualify them for service in any climate.

The examinations are chiefly in writing, and begin with a short autobiography of the candidates. The remainder of the written exercise consists in examination of the various branches of medicine, surgery, and hygiene.

The oral examination includes subjects of preliminary education, history, literature, and natural sciences.

The clinical examination is conducted at a hospital, and when practicable, candidates are required to perform surgical operations on a cadaver.

Successful candidates will be numbered according to their attainments on examination, and will be commissioned in the same order as vacancies occur.

Upon appointment the young officers are, as a rule, first assigned to duty at one of the large hospitals, as at Boston, New York, New Orleans, Chicago, or San Francisco.

After four years' service, assistant surgeons are entitled to examination for promotion to the grade of passed assistant surgeon.

Promotion to the grade of surgeon is made according to seniority and after due examination, as vacancies occur in that grade.

Assistant surgeons receive \$1,600, passed assistant surgeons \$2,000, and surgeons \$2,500 a year. When quarters are not provided, commutation at the rate of \$30, \$40, and \$50 a month, according to grade, is allowed.

All grades above that of assistant surgeon receive longevity pay, 10 per cent. in addition to the regular salary for every five years' service up to 40 per cent. after twenty years' service.

The tenure of office is permanent. Officers traveling under orders are allowed actual expenses.

For further information, or for invitation to appear before the board of examiners, address "Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C."

THE A. M. A. PRESS SERVICE TO NEWS-PAPERS.

The following is a circular letter sent out by the Press Bureau of the Council on Health and Public Instruction to all the five thousand and more papers on its list. In many instances the papers published this letter in full. It will show you a little of the attitude and of the nature of the work of the association in connection with publicity.

535 Dearborn avenue, Chicago, Jan. 2, 1912.
To the Editor:

This is a circular letter. It has to be on account of the large number sent out. But it is as much a personal letter as though it had been written especially for you.

Attacks on the Association.

For some time past, the American Medical Association has been the subject of attack. Attempts have been made to mislead the public as to what it is and what it is doing. The newspapers themselves have originated very little of the "copy" used. It has been inspired by, and, in most cases, prepared by, those who have good reason to be hostile to the American Medical Association.

An organization has recently arisen whose principal object seems to be to attack the American Medical Association under cover of opposition to proposed health legislation. This organization owes its origin to those who were and are being injured by the work of the Association.

The American Medical Association has no secrets. It has no desire to keep from the public what it is doing. On the contrary, it wants the public to know what it is doing. It will then be apparent why the Association has incurred the enmity of certain interests.

Frauds in Proprietary Medicines.

About six years ago, the Association established a chemical laboratory at its headquarters in Chicago. Competent chemists began a systematic investigation of drug preparations made by proprietary houses and sold to druggists to be used by physicians. The results of these investigations were made public from time to time, many frauds and dishonest methods were exposed. These investigations revolutionized the proprietary medicine business and have greatly diminished the profits of dishonest firms. This explains the antagonism of those proprietary medicine firms which were found to be employing dishonest and fraudulent methods.

Frauds in Patent Medicines.

The Association laboratory later took up the investigation of so-called "patent" medicines—i. e., those sold directly to the public—exposing many frauds by which the sick are swindled. This explains the antagonism of the patent medicine interests.

Frauds in Manufacture and Sale of Foods.

Five years ago, after years of effort, Congress passed a Federal pure food law, the National Food and Drugs Act. The Association had agitated this question for many years and was active in securing the passage of the bill. Since the law became effective, the Association has labored to secure its enforcement and to prevent its emasculation. This explains the antagonism of the manufacturers and dealers in adulterated and sophisticated food products.

Low Standard of Medical Education.

A few years ago, medical education in this country was in a condition that was not creditable to the medical profession; and—what is more important—it resulted in admitting to the practice of medicine men who were untrained and who were not fit to treat the sick. Eight years ago, the Council on Medical Education was created by the American Medical Association, and a thorough investigation of medical education was made. The facts revealed by the investigation were published, and a periodic inspection of medical schools was inaugurated. The results of these inspections are published each year. This explains the antagonism of the poorly equipped proprietary medical colleges.

This is only a part of what the Association has been and is doing. This work is altruistic, and in it the American Medical Association is spending thousands annually.